

# COLORADO OPEN LANDSCAPES

A NEWSLETTER OF COLORADO OPEN LANDS



Photo © Gary Nichols

## Spotlight on Recreation

*Active outdoor recreation contributes over \$10 billion annually to the state's economy, supports 107,000 jobs across Colorado, generates nearly \$500 million in annual state tax revenue, produces \$7.6 billion annually in retail sales and services across Colorado, and accounts for 4% of the gross state product (according to a study by the Outdoor Industry Association currently being updated and expected to have similar results).*

Colorado Open Lands works with interested landowners and agencies to secure and enhance public recreational opportunities every year through a broad spectrum of private, non-profit, and public partnerships.

Although public access is not appropriate in every situation because of the conservation values of a given property, we have found numerous opportunities to work creatively with landowners to provide public access in a fashion that is compatible with the property's conservation values as well as the landowner's needs and wishes.

Below, we've outlined three different ownership and management examples that highlight the diversity of recreational opportunities that Colorado Open Lands delivers through our projects.

### Public ownership, public management

Colorado Open Lands holds conservation easements on numerous publicly-owned properties that invite recreational use.

If you've ridden your bike south of Denver down the South Platte bike trail, you've likely pedaled past the Carson Nature Center—and through our **South Platte Park** conservation easement. The Park came about thanks to three decades of tireless work by local, regional, state and federal partners, as well as numerous private property owners. Along the way, a critical 19-acre buffer, protected with a conservation easement held by Colorado Open Lands, was added to South Platte Park to separate the park from commercial development to the east.

Today, South Platte Park totals 672 acres, has over 6.5 miles of trails, five lakes and 2.5 miles of river open to fishing. Over 11,000 people visit the Carson Nature

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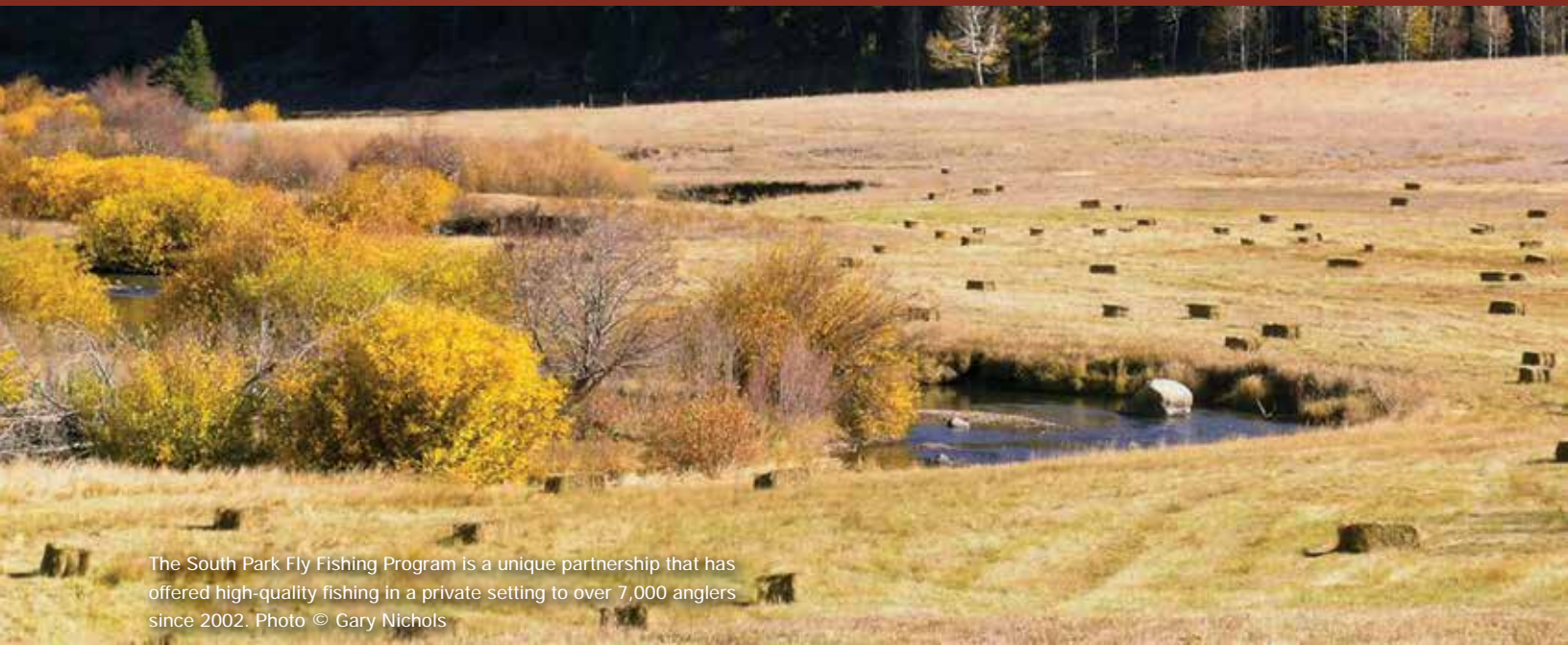
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The South Park Fly Fishing Program is a unique partnership that has offered high-quality fishing in a private setting to over 7,000 anglers since 2002. Photo © Gary Nichols

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*A paper, **Using Nature and Outdoor Activity to Improve Children's Health**, written by a number of health experts, suggests that exposing kids to natural environments reduces the risk of obesity and promotes psychological well-being. **Kids with strong connections to the outdoors are happier, healthier and smarter.***

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Center each year, 2,500 school children enjoy field trips to the site annually, and nearly 1,000 people participate in popular nature programs and hikes. Visit [www.littletongov.org/parks/details.asp?PARK\\_ID=125](http://www.littletongov.org/parks/details.asp?PARK_ID=125) to read more about this fantastic park. Better yet, hop on your bike, head down the Platte and check it out for yourself.

### **Private ownership, private management**

In 2011, Colorado Open Lands had the pleasure of working with Pat Gebauer and Luan August, owners of Prewitt Ranch in Washington County to place a conservation easement on their 3,796-acre property. Located 100 miles east of Denver, the Ranch abuts Prewitt Reservoir and Prewitt Reservoir State Wildlife Area.

In addition to operating a thriving Cardinal Charolais cattle ranch, Pat and Luan lease a portion of their property to a duck hunting club. Since they started working with Colorado Open Lands, they have also hosted a busload of elementary and middle school students, several visits from birdwatchers with the Denver Audubon Society, and a handful of first-time youth hunts facilitated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Pat and Luan are busy people, but they view the time that they spend on public access as an avenue to highlight the critical role that farmers and ranchers play in the protection and improvement of wildlife habitat. *"Many people don't realize that healthy wildlife populations often depend on undeveloped agricultural land. We're not only producing food, but providing a place for birds and other animals to live and thrive."*

For spectacular photos of the Prewitt Ranch, its prize winning Charolais Cattle, and diverse bird life, visit [www.cardinalcharolais.com](http://www.cardinalcharolais.com).

### **Private ownership, third party management**

By far the most creative of these management scenarios is when land is in private ownership, but public access is managed by a public agency or non-profit organization. Our prime example of this is eight privately-owned ranches that offer fishing access through the South Park Fly Fishers Program ([www.southparktrout.com](http://www.southparktrout.com)).

South Park is recognized internationally for its productive trout waters. Seven of the eight ranches in the Fly Fishers Program are permanently protected by conservation easements held by Colorado Open Lands, but Park County administers the access program. This unique private/public/non-profit partnership has created a highly successful, well-managed, and very popular program that offers high-quality fishing in a private setting. More than 7,000 anglers have used the program to access these private properties since 2002.

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***Being outdoors on the land we love is fundamental to the Colorado experience.** Our lands contribute to a healthy quality of life, to the preservation of our agricultural and rural heritage, to habitat for wildlife, and to countless recreation opportunities that result in an outdoor recreation industry that generates billions of dollars for the state's economy.*

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While not all conservation properties are appropriate for public access, Colorado Open Lands admires the foresight our landowners have shown when it is possible to offer it. We are proud to play a role in establishing and supporting public recreational opportunities throughout Colorado!

Visit [www.ColoradoOpenLands.org/site/ourWork/LandProtection/Index.php](http://www.ColoradoOpenLands.org/site/ourWork/LandProtection/Index.php) on our website to find a list of our public-access conservation easement lands.

## A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.

—Greek Proverb

In the last newsletter, I discussed the audacity of the concept of conservation: Land conservation is the only institution, perhaps with the exception of saving souls, that is intended to last forever. Perpetual conservation is one generation's promise to its successors: we will ensure this is there for you.

But land, communities, organizations and people all change over time. Therein lies the challenge of the promise—how to protect critical resources in an ever-changing environment. We draft documents targeting the difficult line between being specific enough to enforce the conservation restrictions, and flexible enough to accommodate the unknown of perpetuity. We build reserve funds to sustain conservation management and we create insurance pools for legal defense. We constantly learn from the unanticipated and seek to anticipate the unknown—everything from changes in property tax assessments to climate change.

Among the many threats in the course of ensuring perpetuity, conservation organizations will face unfavorable new case law, significant potential condemnations, third-party legal threats and political challenges of all varieties, as well as questions of organizational sustainability. We likely won't always win, and breaking the perpetuity promise is potentially disastrous to the conservation movement. (Coming to grips with the implications of perpetuity is a daunting task. But the need to deal with that challenge has come of age. It requires new thinking, new methods, and new approaches.)

If conservation is to meet the challenges of today and fulfill the commitments of tomorrow, we need to raise the level of the game. For this to occur, the environmental, economic, social and political role of conservation must be recognized, understood, and supported by our citizens and our institutions. When individual citizens understand the connection of conservation to their values, they will take measures necessary to assure its success.

This will require a new and broadened conservation initiative—one based on the relevancy of land conservation to people's values and its essential role as part of the fabric of our communities. Conservation's promise of perpetuity is only guaranteed when society ensures it. That will require the hearts and minds of the people.

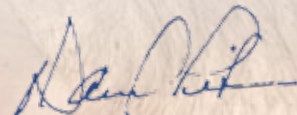
Over two-thirds of Coloradans consider themselves to be conservationists. That's the finding of the 2013 Conservation in the West Poll conducted by Public Opinion Strategies and Colorado College. This number has remained consistent over the ten-year history of the Poll. It does not appear to be a trend, but rather an ingrained belief of most Coloradans.

Other findings of the Poll are equally supportive of conservation. 79% believe public lands enhance our quality of life. It should not be a surprise to the land conservation community. Despite some recent challenges, Coloradans have consistently been supportive of conservation financially and as advocates. Local open space programs, Great Outdoors Colorado, and the conservation easement tax credit are examples of support that are envied by other states.

Coloradans believe in the importance of conservation. But too often there is a recognition gap. People may not make the connection between their values and land conservation. They need to know how conservation relates to their family, to their physical and mental health, to their economic well-being; in short, to their quality of life. People understand the link between open space and their view of the mountains, but they may not understand the link to the food on their table, the water from their faucet, or their paycheck from work.

That then is the job of ensuring perpetual conservation: develop a critical, diverse mass of institutions, communities and people that recognize the importance of land to their quality of life and who will in turn create the platform necessary to ensure perpetuity. The pieces are there. When people make the connection, they will act.

Our job is to create that connection. If we make conservation relevant, if we integrate it into communities, and if we connect it to people's values, the future of conservation will be ensured. Selling isn't necessary, awareness is.



Daniel E. Pike, President

Lucy Waldo has left **Gunnison Ranchland Legacy** after serving as Executive Director since December 2001. During Lucy's tenure, she coordinated 25 conservation easements and raised \$13 million in funding from GOCO, FRPP, DOW, Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund and other funding agencies and private donors. Full of more ideas than she can keep track of, Lucy is pursuing new opportunities in agri-tourism, resource conservation issues and local foods. You can reach her at [cochetopalucy@yahoo.com](mailto:cochetopalucy@yahoo.com) or 970.641.6280. We will miss you Lucy!



Lucy Waldo

After five years at the **Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts**, **Jeannie McGinnis** is going walkabout. *"My husband and I are leaving in a couple of weeks for Ecuador. We're not sure yet where all we'll go, but we want to spend some significant time in Uruguay and be in Cartagena, Colombia for Christmas."* When she's able to pick up her email, you can reach her at [Jeannie@allmail.net](mailto:Jeannie@allmail.net). Travel safely, Jeannie. We will miss you!

It's hard to imagine a CCLT conference going smoothly without Jeannie, but **Greg Yankee** and the crew pulled it off. The Conservation Excellence conference, held March 11-12, was a rousing success with over 200 folks in attendance and 36 individual sessions. The keynote speech was by **Denver Botanic Gardens' Dr. Jennifer Ramp Neale**, Director of Research and Conservation. If you didn't make it, you missed a great event.

With the departure of **Jeannie McGinnis** and **John Swartout** (who continues to help with legislative issues), **Greg Yankee** has stepped up to be CCLT's interim Executive Director. According to Greg, the CCLT Board and staff will be updating the strategic plan. At the end of the process, estimated to be complete this spring, the Board will begin the search for a new Executive Director.

The **Colorado Conservation Trust** has awarded **Jerod Smith** a 2-year Fellowship with the **Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust** starting last December. What a great matchup! Jerod is a Colorado native who grew up on a centennial cattle ranch near Meeker. He received a Bachelor's and Master's in Agroecology from the **University of Wyoming**. (In case you're wondering, Agroecology is "the study of ecological processes that operate in agricultural production systems.") Aside from receiving three scholarships from the **National Western Stock Show** and helping his family on the ranch, Jerod enjoys competitive darts. You can reach Jerod for a demonstration or any other purpose at [jsmith@ccalt.org](mailto:jsmith@ccalt.org).

**CCALT** has opened its first satellite office in the Old Pilot Building in Steamboat Springs. Luckily, former CCALT Stewardship Director **Megan Manner Knott** married Routt County rancher Tyler Knott, thus moving to Steamboat Springs to manage the office AND work on her PhD in GIS. She can be reached at [megan@ccalt.org](mailto:megan@ccalt.org).

Last October, CCALT was honored by the **El Pomar Foundation** and awarded the **Julie and Spencer Penrose Award** as Colorado's outstanding nonprofit. The Penrose Award included a \$50,000 cash prize to further CCALT's work throughout Colorado. Way more than cool!

The **Land Trust Accreditation Commission** recently announced that the **Douglas Land Conservancy** has been accredited—a long, arduous, revealing, and rewarding procedure. Hats off to **Patti Hostetler** and the crew at DCLC!

How is **Great Outdoors Colorado** ever going to get along without **Chris Leding**? Says Chris, *"It has been an amazing experience over the past 18-plus years. Very few of us get to work in an organization that has such a worthy mission, to work with such committed people and to see so many special places in this state."* She's going to take some time off to spend with her girls—her eldest starts high school in the fall. Teenagers? That's not restful, Chris! People can reach Chris at [c.leding@comcast.net](mailto:c.leding@comcast.net).

Lots of news from **San Isabel Land Protection Trust** in beautiful Westcliffe. **Ben Lenth** who joined SILPT in 2009 has just been promoted to Executive Director. Along with his wife and daughters, Ben lives on and manages **Humboldt Peak Ranch** south of Westcliffe, which is protected by a conservation easement held by SILPT. **Kristi Hosterman** is the new Stewardship and Development Coordinator. Kristi hails from Northern California but had the good sense to move to the Wet Mountain Valley in 2006. Another Northern Californian with good sense is **Megan Hosterman**. She will work half time for SILPT as an **Americorps VISTA** volunteer. In October, SILPT said a sad farewell to **Annie Layman**, Special Projects Coordinator, who retired after 12 years of working with San Isabel. Annie had been the backbone of the SILPT office and responsible for many of the successes they had enjoyed over the years.

**Matt Ashley** is the new Land Conservation Specialist for the **Mountain Area Land Trust**. A self-described reformed Aspen ski bum, Matt is a **University of Colorado** and a **St. Louis University School of Law** graduate who passed the Colorado bar this summer. Guess that says something about the quality of some of the legendary number of ski bums in Colorado. Matt can be reached at [matt@savetheland.org](mailto:matt@savetheland.org).

News from **Colorado Open Lands**: Former COL/CCT Fellow and current GOCO Open Space Coordinator, **Chris Yuan-Farrell** and his wife Kim are proud to announce the birth of 9 lb. **Teagan Porter Yuan-Farrell** on December 9th. Hopefully baby Teagan will have lengthened out his sleep cycles by now!

If you want a head start finding a job in land conservation in Colorado, volunteer at Colorado Open Lands. Last summer **Greg Stavish** (New Jersey born and **Rutgers** educated) helped COL as a land stewardship intern. Warning, there are risks. One such adventure came along when Greg, out in the field by himself while monitoring an easement, encountered abundant cougar scat and a kill. Fortunately he never found the kill's owner and the cat never found him so the story ends well. And where is he now? At the **Mountain Area Land Trust** as their land steward! Safe travels throughout the Foothills, Greg. You can reach Greg at [greg@savetheland.org](mailto:greg@savetheland.org).

## Public Comment Period

Colorado Open Lands is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of its accreditation status with the Land Trust Accreditation Committee. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs to ensure that the organization meets national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Colorado Open Lands complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see [www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices).

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments on Colorado Open Lands' application will be most useful by June 30th, 2013.

Comments may also be faxed or mailed to:

Land Trust Accreditation Commission  
Attn: Public Comments:  
112 Spring Street, Suite 204  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
(fax) 518.587.3183



## Board Spotlight An interview with Rebecca Frank

### *Colorado Open Lands: How did you first become involved with COL and its Board?*

Rebecca: I served for 13 years on the Colorado Wildlife Commission and was originally appointed by Governor Dick Lamm. He was such a visionary for this state on so many different levels. As governor, he accepted a white paper on the Future of Wildlife in Colorado written by then-Wildlife Commissioner Jean Toole. Governor Lamm then put together a Blue Ribbon Panel on the subject.

After a gubernatorial election, Governor Roy Romer accepted the results and appointed People for Great Outdoors Colorado, the ad hoc group eventually responsible for the campaign that secured passage of Great Outdoors Colorado. I was involved from the beginning and feel like a "birth parent" of Great Outdoors Colorado. I served as Wildlife's representative on the original board of GOCO until I left the Wildlife Commission. Because Governor Lamm, with invaluable leadership from the Colorado Forum, also envisioned Colorado Open Lands during this same time frame, I was aware of what the board was doing. It was such an honor when Charlie Russell approached me to be part of this organization.

### *COL: What do you enjoy most about being on the Board?*

Rebecca: The Board is made up of influential people. There are



COL Board member—Rebecca Frank

leaders from the banking, business and political communities. This is different than many conservation entities which rely heavily on the environmental communities. I think the concept which Colorado Open Lands was/is based upon is so very unique—a business model. The early leaders are to be commended for this unique approach.

### *COL: What do you see as the future for conservation in Colorado?*

Rebecca: Where is my crystal ball! I'm fairly optimistic but there are certainly big issues facing the state, fracking and drilling primary among them. I'm hopeful Governor Hickenlooper will allow cities and municipalities to regulate fracking within their respective limits, as long as those limits are reasonable. There are environmentally unique places where drilling should be banned. Unfortunately, some of that unique environment has already been leased. Colorado has a relatively commendable history of multiple-use and I hope that continues. However, where there's important land to be protected, much of the time it simply comes back to money. If we want to protect it, we must raise the money to do so.

*A big thank you to Rebecca for all she has done and continues to do for our state's precious wildlife and open spaces—and for Colorado Open Lands!*

## Stewardship Corner Perpetuity is a long time!

A lot of us forget that a conservation easement is only the first step in conserving our natural heritage. Perpetuity is a long time and planning for unknown eventualities is a challenging process. There is the need to be constantly thinking "outside the box".

Colorado Open Lands prides itself on being in the vanguard of facing stewardship issues. We were one of the first to develop a workable stewardship endowment formula and have been a leader in aerial monitoring of our conservation easements. But one of the true challenges every land trust faces is how to protect our conservation easements from legal challenges from any number of sources.

The majority of land trusts across America have faced few, if any legal challenges. However, as the number of conservation easements increase and the land beneath them becomes more valuable, that will surely change. As part of the initial agreement with the landowner, land trusts must be prepared to defend the conservation values and lands held in their trust.

Over 15 years ago we started asking ourselves whether we had all that was necessary to protect our conservation easements. What if we had to go to court? Would we be able to cover the potentially significant costs of litigation? It



has been shown that a legal case to defend a conservation easement can be upwards of \$100,000. Even land trusts with significant stewardship

endowments such as Colorado Open Lands could see their endowment quickly eroded with just a couple of expensive litigation actions.

To address these and other similar questions, Colorado Open Lands commissioned Jessica Jay, founding partner of Conservation Law, P.C., to research options for enforcing conservation easements. Jay's study, published in 1999, launched the idea of insurance for land trusts as a way to "provide broad-based solutions without directly linking the fates of land trusts together."

Today, land trusts across the country have a new resource for easement defense: a charitable risk pool insurance service called Terra Firma. Terra Firma was formed in 2011 by the Land Trust Alliance to help land trusts defend their conserved land from legal challenges. It was formally launched in 2012 and in March, 2013 the first policies will start taking effect. To date, almost 500 land trusts have joined Terra Firma.

Colorado Open Lands is proud of its role in bringing about this valuable service that further strengthens land trusts' ability to protect our country's spectacular natural heritage.

# Help Us Complete the Protection of Forest Hollow!



*The purchase of Forest Hollow offers a unique opportunity for encouraging multiple compatible uses while protecting a spectacular place!*  
Photos © Xavier Fane

In January 2013, Colorado Open Lands purchased the spectacular Forest Hollow property in Crested Butte. Forest Hollow is part of a natural corridor of open lands on the south slope of Snodgrass Mountain, and is strategically wedged between national forest lands and conserved private land. With this purchase, Colorado Open Lands has protected this unique property from proposed development that threatened to break the parcel into five home sites.

A popular hiking and mountain biking trail weaves through the Hollow, and provides stunning views of the West Elk Wilderness, high mountain meadows, rich aspen forest, and natural wetlands.

Colorado Open Lands plans to lease management of the property to Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory and

Crested Butte Land Trust. Forest Hollow provides RMBL with important habitat on which to conduct sustainable long-term studies of biological and evolutionary processes within Colorado's high country ecosystems.

Colorado Open Lands is partnering with the Colorado Conservation Trust to raise \$250,000 to cover the purchase and management cost of this transaction. To date, CCT has helped raise \$175,000, including the recently announced grant of \$25,000 from the Gunnison County Land Preservation Fund. **With only \$75,000 left to go, we invite you to help us protect this unique piece of Colorado! Just go to [www.ColoradoOpenLands.org](http://www.ColoradoOpenLands.org) for more information.**

And if you are ever in the area, be sure to go for a hike or bike ride and check it out!

## Thank you, Dieter!



Dieter Erdmann

On April 12, we said a bittersweet farewell to Dieter Erdmann, Colorado Open Lands' Director of Conservation Operations. After 13 enthusiastic and productive years with us, Dieter is taking his conservation career in an exciting new direction as the Western Rivers Conservancy's first Interior West Program Director.

Dieter will lead the Conservancy's work in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona in their mission to identify and acquire key river lands to conserve critical habitat and provide public access for compatible use and enjoyment. The ultimate goal is to transfer these lands to public or private stewards for long-term conservation and management.

Dieter began his career at Colorado Open Lands as a Land Protection Fellow. In the years since his two-year Fellowship was completed, Dieter has been our Interim Stewardship Director, Land Protection Specialist, and most recently our Director of Conservation Operations.

He has personally completed more than 64 conservation easement transactions that now preserve nearly 42,000 acres

of private land, and he has raised more than \$8.5 million for conservation and habitat restoration projects from public and private sources. Since 2008, Dieter has also led our conservation team to preserve another 87,000 acres of private land through conservation easements.

When asked what he felt were his greatest accomplishments, he replied:

*"I am especially proud of completing the South Park Basin Legacy project, establishing our habitat restoration program, and hiring and mentoring two of our Land Conservation Fellows. It has also been exciting for me to be supported as I engaged more deeply with the water community, and concurrently pushed Colorado Open Lands to engage with highly water-intensive projects. I'm also proud to have recently raised \$1 million for the protection of the Lake San Cristobal Inlet, and through it all, maintained a good balance between work and life."*

Thank you, Dieter, for your passion and dedication to land and water conservation! We will miss you, and we wish you even greater success in the next stage of your career!

# An Exciting New Partnership!

*We are very excited to announce a new partnership between Colorado Open Lands, the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association and the University of Colorado School of Law's Getches-Wilkinson Center, to provide low or no-cost legal assistance and educational materials to Colorado's acequia communities!*

Colorado Open Lands has devoted significant capacity to the Sangre de Cristo landscape since 2009. During this time, we have come to recognize both the importance and difficulty of protecting the area's water resources, particularly the water that flows through the acequia system, a type of water system found only in Southern Colorado and New Mexico, dating from the Mexican colonial period.

Colorado Open Lands realized that to protect this type of unique irrigation system, we would need to complement our conservation easement work with a broader approach. Since January 2012, COL has shared the time of staff member Sarah Pamar with the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association, an umbrella group representing seventy acequias.

Last October, Sarah worked with the Association to organize the first Colorado Congreso de Acequias, a gathering of acequia irrigators, agencies, and nonprofits. Based on the needs identified at that meeting, Sarah has developed an

Acequia Legal and Technical Assistance Program.

Under the guidance of Sarah Pamar, Professor Sarah Krakoff of the University of Colorado, Peter Nichols (of counsel, Berg, Hill, Greenleaf & Ruscitti, LLP), and Ryan Golten (former New Mexico legal services attorney with expertise in acequias), CU law students are drafting a Legal Handbook for Colorado acequias, assisting acequias that wish to incorporate or amend their by-laws to enable them to protect their rights, and assisting acequias and irrigators as they document their water rights and establish their priority rights to water under Colorado law.

This project will not only give students a unique opportunity to understand acequia communities and water rights, but will also provide invaluable aid to acequia irrigators, ensuring that acequia water will support the next generation of Southern Colorado farmers.

*Colorado Open Lands is proud to be a partner in this endeavor!*

*An acequia is a physical irrigation system—a ditch—but it also describes a philosophy about water and community, the philosophy that water is so essential to life that it must be shared.*

## Bonus Board Spotlight!

Hats off to COL Board member Rod Slifer and his wife, Beth! The couple was inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame January 30, 2013. Their community leadership has been an economic driver for tourism in Colorado for more than 50 years.

Rod is the principal of Slifer Smith & Frampton Real Estate, the Vail Valley's largest and most prolific real estate brokerage. He has served as a member of the Vail Town Council and the Mayor of Vail. He is a founding Director of Alpine Banks of Colorado, Director of Colorado Open Lands and the Vail Valley Foundation, and is one of the founders of the University of Colorado Real Estate



*Rod and Beth Slifer*

Center and Real Estate Foundation.

Beth Slifer is the founder (and creative director and CEO) of Slifer Designs Interior Design & Retail with locations in Vail and Denver. For the past decade, she has provided leadership for strategically marketing Vail and contributing to the economic vitality of the Vail Valley through her extensive business and community involvement. Beth currently serves

on the University of Colorado Hospital Board of Directors and the University of Colorado Depression Center Board of Directors.

*Congratulations to Rod and Beth Slifer from all of us at Colorado Open Lands!*

**Charles Russell (Chairman)**

C/A Russell Partners, Inc.

**Russell B. Caldwell**

D. A. Davidson & Co.

**Robert H. Deline**

Monaghan Management Corp.

**Rebecca Frank**

Conservationist

**Larry J. Hauseman**

FirstBank

**Scott McInnis**

U.S. Congress (Ret.)

**Tim Schultz**

Boettcher Foundation

**Wes Segelke**

Wes Segelke & Co.

**Rodney E. Slifer**

Slifer, Smith & Frampton/Vail Associates

**William B. Vollbracht**

Land Title Guarantee

**Ruth Wright**

Attorney

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If you know someone who cares about Colorado's scenic heritage and should be on our mailing list, call us with their name and address at (303) 988-2373 or email us at [info@coloradoopenlands.org](mailto:info@coloradoopenlands.org).

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## Your Support

*Your support of Colorado Open Lands has helped to protect over 380,000 acres of Colorado's spectacular vistas and rich agricultural heritage. For every \$1,000 raised, Colorado Open Lands can protect \$10,000 worth of land.*

**Please join Colorado Open Lands in protecting Colorado's land and water legacy. You can support Colorado Open Lands in the following ways:**

**Donate Online:** Your online gift will make a difference. With your support, we can continue to protect and preserve the great scenic lands and natural heritage of Colorado!

**Gifts of Cash or Securities:** Colorado Open Lands accepts personal and corporate checks and gifts of stock. By giving appreciated stock, you **can** avoid capital gains taxes and receive an income tax deduction. You can also recommend Colorado Open Lands through your Donor Advised Fund!

**Give a Recurring Gift:** Our monthly donors provide long-term sustainable support for our Community Conservation Programs. These enduring gifts help us provide vital services by ensuring that the resources we need for our programs are always available. Start today by clicking on the "Donate" button on our website and choose the monthly giving option!

**Community Shares:** Community Shares is a nonprofit federation that raises funds for over 100 Colorado charities through workplace giving. Colorado Open Lands' Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 78031. Our Denver Employee Combined Campaign (DECC) number is 5021, and our Community Shares of Colorado (CSC) number is 5016.

**Employer Matching Gifts:** Check with your employer to see if they will match your gift. This can often double your contribution.

**Leave a Legacy:** This is as easy as including Colorado Open Lands in your will or living trust, naming Colorado Open Lands as a beneficiary of your IRA-qualified retirement plan, or adding a codicil to your current will that names Colorado Open Lands. Lifetime gifts like this will make a lasting impact on land conservation in Colorado!

**Gifts of Real Estate:** Colorado Open Lands can take excess real estate and turn it into capital for protecting endangered land around Colorado, while potentially giving the donor significant tax deductions.



